



Transportation Outreach Newsletter

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National Transportation Stakeholders Forum

The National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) will hold its first meeting on May 25-27, 2010, at the Westin in Chicago, IL. The theme of this meeting is "Transportation at a Crossroads."

A key component of Department of Energy (DOE) Manual 460.2-1A, *Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual*, is the preplanning and coordination with our offsite stakeholder communities that are impacted by our transportation activities. The American Reinvestment Recovery Act will likely increase the number of offsite shipments and also impact additional areas of the country. The NTSF has been established to serve as the mechanism through which DOE communicates at a national level with states and tribes about the Department's shipments of radioactive waste and materials, as well as occasional high-visibility shipments that are nonradioactive. In addition to speakers from the Office of Environmental Management, speakers have been invited from the Offices of Nuclear Energy and Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration. The purpose of the NTSF is to bring transparency, openness, and accountability to DOE's offsite transportation activities through collaboration with state and tribal governments.

To help set the course for this important new forum, DOE is holding the first meeting of the NTSF in conjunction with meetings of the Department's principal stakeholder groups, the State Regional Groups. This meeting will be particularly relevant for government personnel with responsibilities in packaging and transportation, emergency management, security, inspection and enforcement, radiation protection, and public information.

Attendees will include representatives from the impacted Tribes and States, including the National Conference of

State Legislators High Level Working Group, the Council of State Governments (CSG)-Midwest Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, the CSG-Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force, the Southern States Energy Board Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, and the Western Governors Association Transportation Safety Technical Advisory Group. In addition, representatives from our Federal partners will share information on recent programs, rulemakings, and other changes that will affect DOE's transportation activities.

Two training classes are available for attendees: (1) Risk Communication, which provides responders with principles and techniques necessary to address incidents involving DOE-owned radioactive material; and (2) TRANSCOM Annual User's Group, which will provide a review of the enhancements made to the system over the prior year and to identify additional enhancements/changes needed for the system.

A block of rooms has been reserved with a cutoff date of April 30, 2010, at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago. To register for the meeting or for more information on the hotel, agenda, or other information on the NTSF, click here: [National Transportation Stakeholders Forum](#).

Full-Scale Transportation Exercise Conducted in Nebraska

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) conducted a full-scale transportation exercise, Operation Cornhusker, on March 15, 2010, at the Haymarket Stadium in Lincoln, NE. The scenario simulated a transportation accident involving the collision of a van carrying radioactive sources and a sedan, which dislodged a number of radioactive sources from their containers.



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The unique aspect of this TEPP exercise was the use of actual radioactive sources handled by a health physics technician from Qal-Tek Associates. Qal-Tek controlled all the sources and access to the radiation area. Dose rate readings during the exercise were not simulated; while

contamination readings were simulated using thorium lantern mantles. Only one of the sources, uranyl nitrate powder, was simulated and created a contamination hazard.

The scenario included three victims who were treated at the scene and prepared for transport. Two patients were transported by ambulance to area hospitals; low cloud cover prevented the StarCare air ambulance from transporting a trauma victim as planned.

Participants in Operation Cornhusker included: Lincoln Fire and Rescue (including Dispatch Center and Hazmat Team); Lincoln/Lancaster County Department of Health, Lincoln/Lancaster County Emergency Management Department, Lincoln Police Department, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, and Bryan LGH Medical Center.

Exercise participants established command, assessed hazards, made notifications, established road blocks, transported and treated potentially contaminated victims at two participating area hospitals, extinguished the fire (by charging hoses and knocking down cones used to simulate fire),



protected the public, activated the Incident Dispatch Team (which reported to the Mobile Command Post), retrieved shipping papers, surveyed the scene, conducted field

decontamination, activated the county Emergency Operations Center, and conducted a news conference. Due to time constraints and overtime pay issues, the exercise was terminated before survey teams were able to account for all sources, or complete recovery planning activities.

Following the exercise, a hot-wash critique was conducted allowing the players to self-identify strengths and improvement area. Although areas for improvement

were noted, controllers and evaluators concluded that players accomplished all objectives and performed expected response actions in accordance with the training they received. Local media stations reported on the exercise, and interviewed representatives from the DOE, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, and the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department.

In preparation for the exercise, all members of the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Hazmat Team and Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department participated in the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT), as well as the a pilot training program for Technician MERRTT. First responder units for the exercise were trained in radioactive material shipping packages, hazard recognition, initial response actions, and patient packaging, including the associated practical exercise. Several of the Lincoln Fire and Rescue members completed the train-the-trainer course, and can now train additional responders in their fire department on emergency response actions for a radiological transportation event. Also, the participating medical centers attended a 4-hour version of the FEMA G-346 hospital training.

Stakeholder Survey Results

Each year the Office of Packaging and Transportation, EM-45, requests feedback through a survey on how well we are performing. Over 60 responses to the survey were received. Overall, about 85% of responses rated our products and services as average or above average. However, the survey identified a number of areas where opportunities for continuous improvement can be made, including: better stakeholder communication, clearer information on legislative and regulatory developments, improved training, and better communication on transportation issues and events.

We are especially appreciative of the many written suggestions for improving our effectiveness and value. Each of these suggestions has been discussed and assigned to a member of our team to champion a plan for its implementation. We expect this to result in a number of noticeable improvements and in our ability to better serve our stakeholders. POC is Bill Spurgeon at William.Spurgeon@hq.doe.gov, 301-903-8187

MERRTT Training Schedule

| Date | Location | Activity |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| April 14-16 | Ft. Hall, ID | 8-hr MERRTT |
| April 20-21 | Honolulu, HI | Train the Trainer |
| April 21 | Scottsbluff Co, NE | Partial MERRTT |
| April 27-28 | Holdrege, NE | 8-hr MERRTT |
| May 19-20 | Ogden, UT | 8-hr MERRTT |
| June 5-6 | Shelby, NC | Train the Trainer |
| August 24-25 | Rankin County, MS | Train the Trainer |
| August 24-25 | Scott County, MS | Train the Trainer |

For additional information on MERRTT training please contact Ella McNeil at: Ella.McNeil@hq.doe.gov , 301-903-728

Visit our Web Page at <http://www.em.doe.gov/Pages/Transportation.aspx>

Any comments, questions, or concerns related to DOE packaging and transportation activities should be sent to askpat@hq.doe.gov.

For additional information, contact the Office of Packaging and Transportation:

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